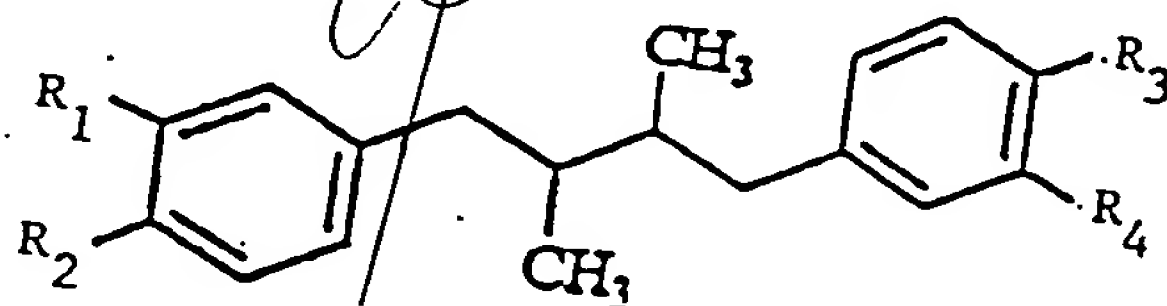


U.S. Patent Application of Huang et al.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for suppressing undesired viral growth in a host which comprises administering to the host an effective amount of 1,4-bis-(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-2,3-dimethylbutane or pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the compound administered is a compound of the formula:



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are independently  $HO-$ ,  $CH_3O-$ ,  $CH_3(C=O)O-$  or functional equivalent thereof.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein the functional equivalent is water-soluble.

4. The method of claim 1 for suppressing Herpes simplex virus in the host.